

# **BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

*A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*  
79 Brooklyn Street PO Box 606 Portville, NY 14770  
(716)-933-6699

[e-mail:bethelportville@gmail.com](mailto:bethelportville@gmail.com)

Websites: (congregation)[www.bethelportvillenyny.org](http://www.bethelportvillenyny.org);  
(synod)[www.upstatenysynod.org](http://www.upstatenysynod.org); (ELCA)[www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org)

Worship Service - Sundays at 8:30am;  
Sunday School, (*Oct. thru May*) at 9:30am, zoom class  
Confirmation Class at 9:45am  
*God's work. Our hands.*

***In case of a pastoral emergency, please contact the church at: 716-933-6699 or Pastor Derek Cheek at 716-307-7963.***

## **February 2021**



There is a quote by an unknown author which is worth our remembering: “You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving.” One might say that our gifts to God and others are concrete evidence of our love for them.

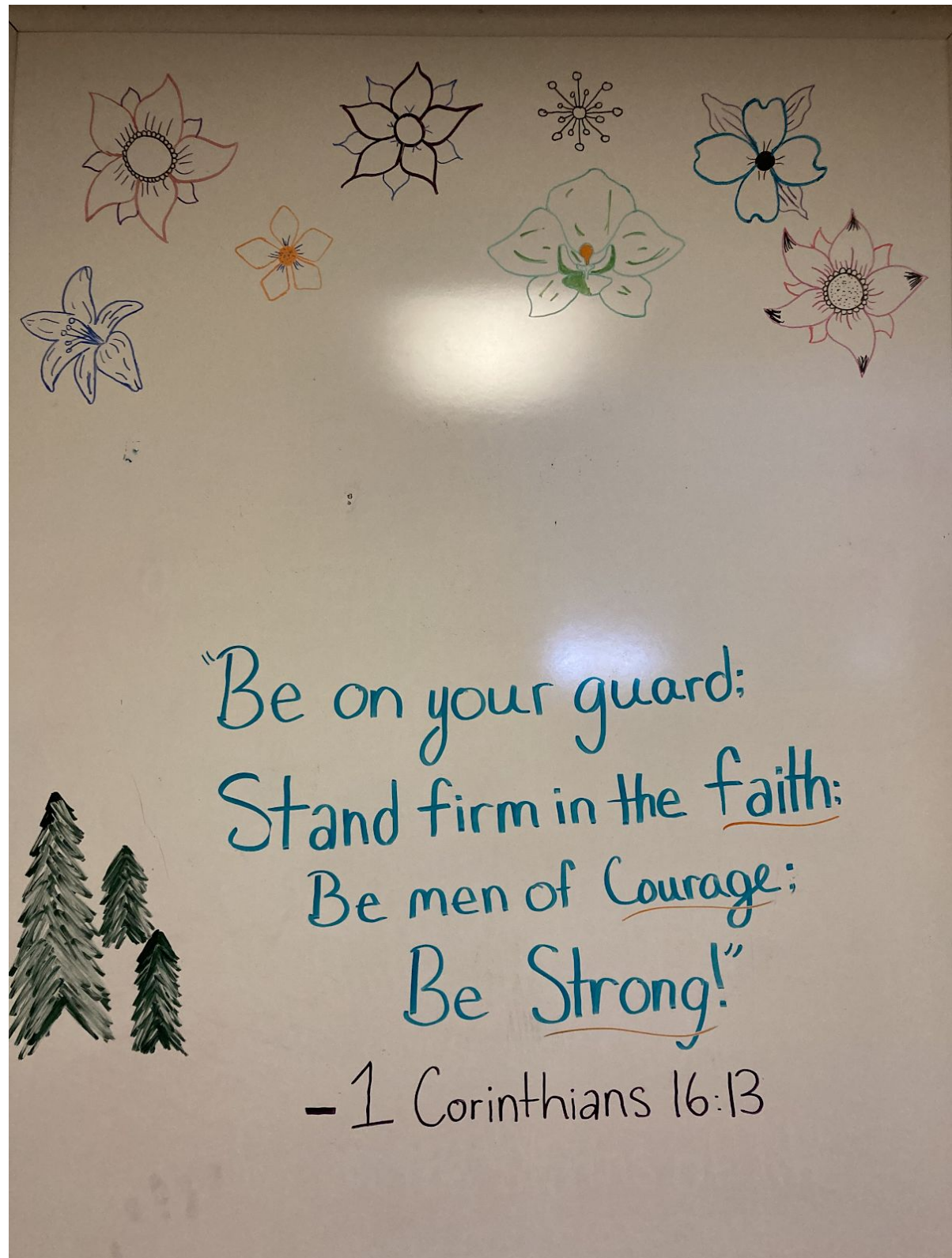
The Bible does not teach us regarding how much we should give to humans, but it is fairly clear about giving to God. The prophet Malachi told the Jews to bring the “full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house, and thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts,” as they came to worship God. (Malachi 3:10)

He was talking about a tithe of their crops or animals or monetary possessions. The rule of thumb of giving, according to the Bible, is one tenth of a person’s gains.

Tithing is a wonderful practice throughout a person’s life. It is so because it means that we are serious in showing our appreciation to God, who has enabled us to have all of the blessings we enjoy daily. It is an indication that we love God and want to show it by what we give.

What every tither seems to learn is that tithing is not a hardship, but a genuine joy. Try it and see.

Bible verse written at Bethel by Myra Sprout



Be on your guard;  
Stand firm in the faith;  
Be men of Courage;  
Be Strong!"

- 1 Corinthians 16:13



**Pray First!**

- For all service men and women, and their families, especially *Gavyn Neudeck, Hillary Peterson, Casey McCarthy, Tyler McCarthy, Kendra Linn, Travis Dorvit, Kurt Michael Miller and Kyle Lust*. For Christ to be made known in our companion synods – *Zimbabwe and Zambia*, and our partner synod – *Central/Southern Illinois Synod*. For the Franciscan community at *Mt. Irenaeus* and the *Burkhart Retreat Center for Life* – retreats in our local area. For our Bishops, Bishop Elizabeth Eaton (ELCA) and John Macholz (Upstate New York Synod), Assistants to the Bishop Dave Preisinger, Mary Johnson, and Dean Derek Cheek. For the mission congregations in our synod—*Organic Faith* in Amherst and *Todos los Hijos de Dios* in Amsterdam. For the pastors and congregations in our Southwestern Conference and for our congregation council leaders – President *Bill Graves*, Secretary *Trinette Brewer*, Treasurer *Doug Ploetz*, Vice President *JoAnn Kile*, and members *Skip Giberson, Donald Linn and Ron Kile*. For our sister congregation, *Peace Lutheran* and their ministry in Slidell, LA for the ministry of *ELCMA* – Evangelical Lutheran Coalition for Mission in Appalachia. For area ministries: *Genesis House, Portville Community Food Pantry, and Interfaith Caregivers, Accounting Beyond Borders*.

PLEASE SEE BULLETIN BOARD outside the sanctuary for a **COMPLETE SECRETARY'S REPORT**.

Council Member

Bill Graves  
JoAnn Kile

Trinette Brewer  
Doug Ploetz  
Skip Giberson

Ron Kile  
Don Linn

Committee Assignment

Council President  
Vice President,  
Worship & Music,  
Christian Education  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Fellowship,  
Stewardship  
Bldg./Property

***In case of a pastoral emergency, please contact the church at: 716-933-6699 or Pastor Derek Cheek at 716-307-7963 cell phone or at Immanuel 716-372-0650. When you call the church phone number it will be automatically forwarded to Nannette Giberson's cell phone. You will be able to talk directly to her or leave her a message and she will return your call. Thank you.***

Prayer Chain:

If you have need of prayer, we have an email prayer chain. Just call Nannette at 716-933-8855 or e-mail [rangiberson@gmail.com](mailto:rangiberson@gmail.com).

This is temporary while Bev's computer is down.

Bev Robinson – phone number 814-225-3341 or e-mail at [grandmagee756@gmail.com](mailto:grandmagee756@gmail.com)



**Please keep these members in your prayers and send them a card if you are able:**

Hilda Prosser  
% Cuba Memorial Hospital  
Nursing Home – Room 238W  
140 West Main Street  
Cuba, NY 14727  
(585) 968-2000 Ext. 712



The Portville Food Pantry collects these items on an on-going basis: spaghetti, spaghetti sauce, pasta, mac and cheese, pork and beans, canned vegetables and fruit, tuna, soup, rice, egg noodles, cereals and canned tomatoes.

**Have you checked out Bethel's Facebook Group?**

The url is:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/127210584114232/>

**Fundraiser Funds are divided as follows:**

**10% Charity of our choice**

**10% Benevolence**

**Rest in general fund**



**Deadline for the February newsletter is February 21<sup>st</sup>.**



**We NEED people to sign up as worship servants.**

***We are in need of Lectors, Prayer Leaders, Ushers, Communion assistants and Altar Guild. There are sign-up sheets on the table in Fellowship Hall. Please sign up for one or more of these positions as you feel led. Thank you.***

# February 2021

## Worship Assistants, Birthdays, and Anniversaries



### Worship Assistants

*No acolyte this month*

#### Communion Assistant:

*Trinette Brewer*

#### Lectors:

February 7<sup>th</sup> .....*Jo Kile*  
February 14<sup>th</sup> .....*Ruth Brewer*  
February 21<sup>st</sup> .....*Jo Kile*  
February 28<sup>th</sup> .....*Connie Matteson*

#### Prayer Leader:

February 7<sup>th</sup> .....*Myra Sprout*  
February 14<sup>th</sup> .....*Connie Matteson*  
February 21<sup>st</sup> .....*Ruth Brewer*  
February 28<sup>th</sup> .....*Linda Scott*

Usher: .....

Mail Greeter: .....*Nannette Giberson*

Bread Baker:.....*Ron Kile*

Altar Guild:.....*Trinette Brewer*



- 2....Marilyn (Ploetz) Perkins
- 2....Troy Giberson
- 3....Annie Blicharz
- 4... Pace Scott
- 5....Robert Baughman
- 7....Quinn Scott
- 9...Mitch Smith
- 12...Robert MacPherson
- 14...Kay Anderson
- 19...Irelynn MacPherson
- 20...Kevin Hepfer
- 20...Warner Johnson
- 26...Linda Scott



*Happy Anniversary*

20...Bill & Karen Snow

## ***BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH CALENDAR - February 2021***

- Sunday, February 7                    ***FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY***  
8:30am - Worship  
9:30am - 10:00am Sunday School Zoom Class  
9:45am - 10:45am Confirmation Class
- Sunday, February 14                    ***TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD***  
8:30am - Worship  
9:30am - 10:00am Sunday School Zoom Class  
9:45am - 10:45am Confirmation Class
- Thursday, February 18                    Council meeting at 7pm
- Sunday, February 21                    ***FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT***  
8:30am - Worship  
Annual Meeting after worship  
No Sunday School or Confirmation Class
- Sunday, February 28                    ***SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT***  
8:30am - Worship  
9:30am - 10:00am Sunday School Zoom Class  
9:45am - 10:45am Confirmation Class

Vicar Gerry Zimmerman wants all to know that he can get communion to those of you that would like to have it, just let him or Nannette Giberson know.

# WHAT'S HAPPENING!!!



Zoom **Sunday School** class will be held **Sunday mornings from 9:30am – 10:00am.**

**Confirmation** class will be held **Sunday mornings from 9:45am – 10:45am**, also on Zoom. **Jo Kile and Ruth Brewer** are the confirmation class teachers.

**No Sunday School or Confirmation Class on February 21<sup>st</sup>**

Bethel now has Zoom services! Nannette has set up Zoom meetings for Bethel's Sunday services. She is also sending out Zoom info for Shepard of the Valley's service. Thank you Nannette!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88305027386?pwd=L0pxbU9UK1lxcmlNEWdVpbXFivjBVUT09>

You need the meeting number and the passcode.

**Bethel Zoom Service:** 8am Sundays. The **meeting ID: 883 0502 7386** and **passcode: H9i7j9** are the same each time.

**Shepherd Zoom Service:** 10:30am Sundays. Shepherd of the Valley's meeting ID and passcode change weekly.

The **annual meeting** will be held following worship service on **February 21<sup>st</sup>**.





Trinette sent this link out to help us stay in **prayer during this pandemic.**

<https://www.elca.org/Faith/DailyBible>

Trinette also sent this if you are interested in staying up with your **tithing - Online Giving for Bethel:** <https://bethelportvillenya.breezechms.com/give/online>

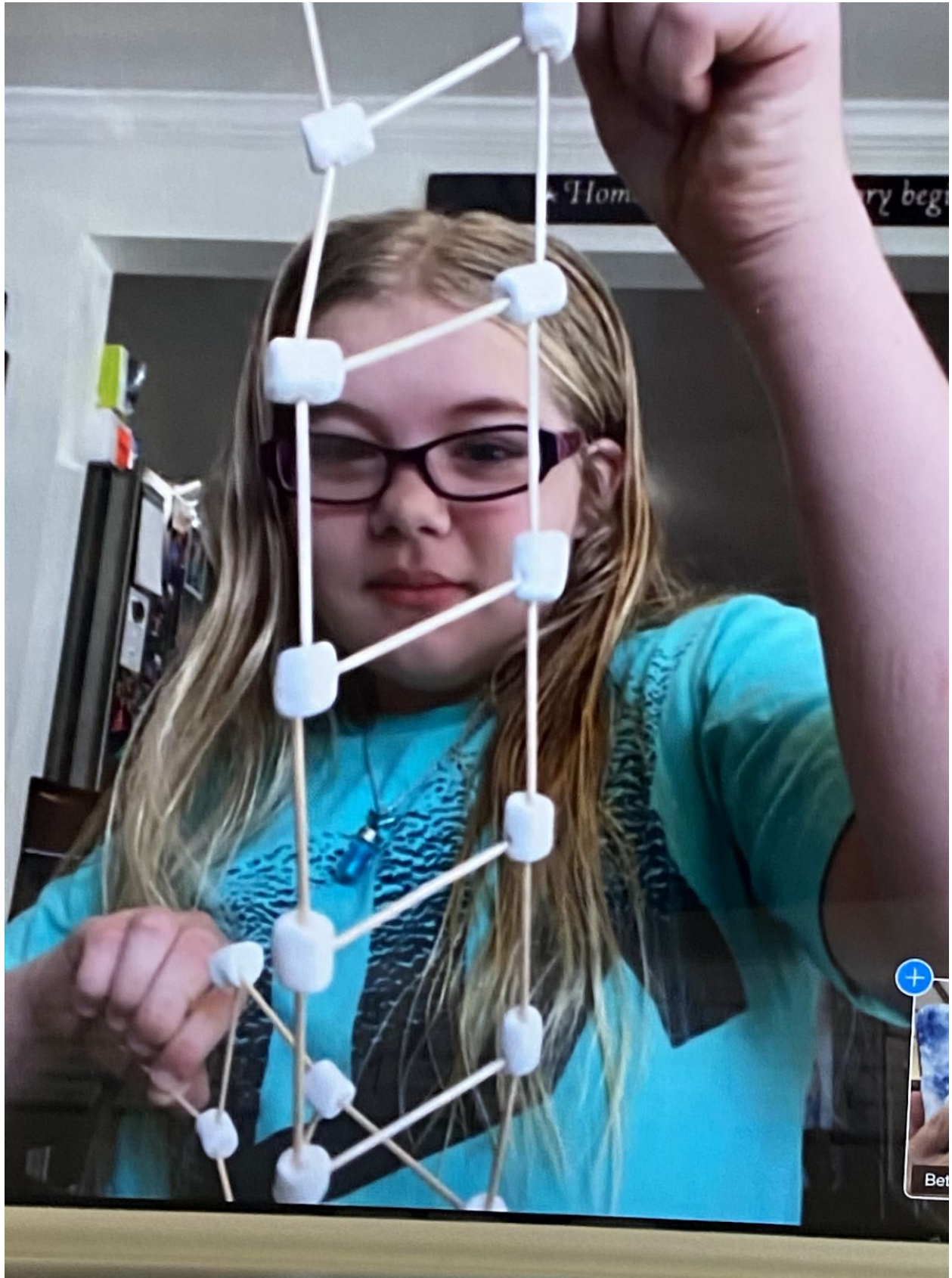
You can also **give through texting.** The number is 716-477-3131. The first time it takes you to the giving page and then after that you text "give \$50".



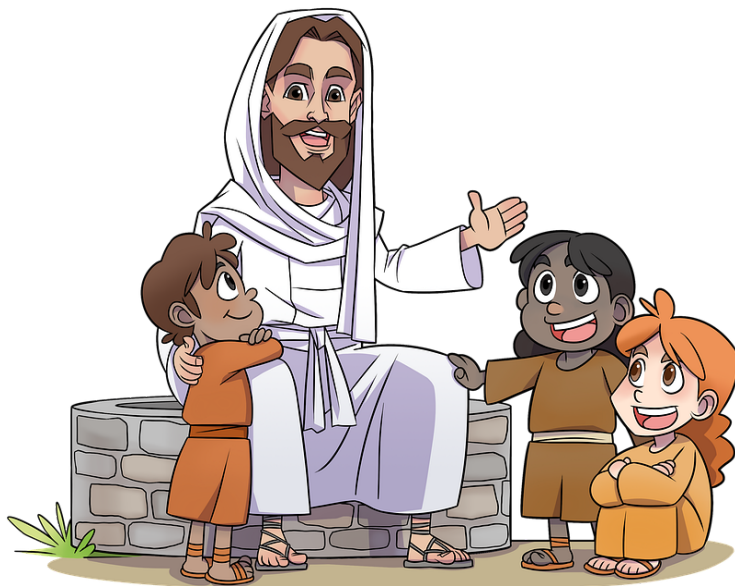


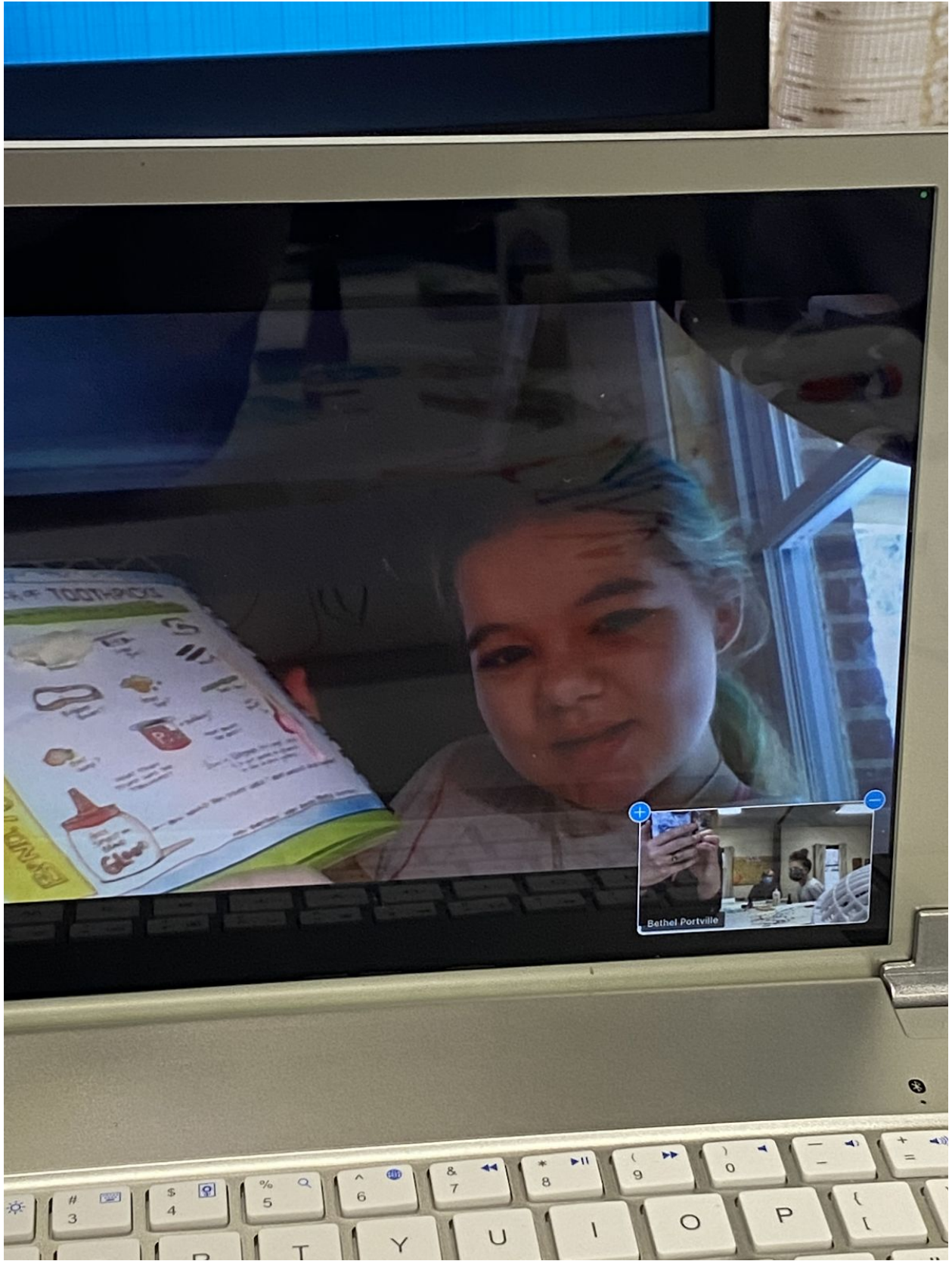
# Sunday School and Confirmation Class













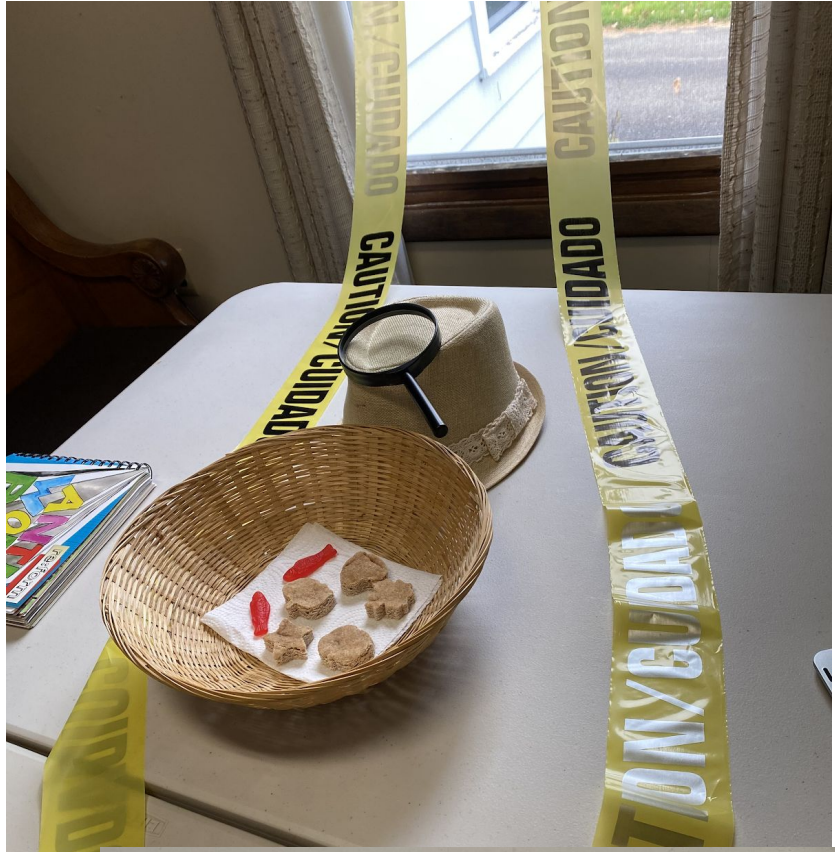














Sunday school zooming - Grace, Quinn, Pace and Danny

Confirmation class and zooming - Myra, Clair and Livy

Confirmation teachers Jo Kile and Ruth Brewer

Sunday school teachers Courtney Sprout and Nannette Giberson

Sent by Nannette Giberson

## PICTURES! PICTURES! PICTURES! PRAYERS & PRAYER REQUESTS

*Jan. 16, 2021 by Impacto*

Oh my goodness! What a whirlwind! The first half of January has taken us for a ride. We knew we would have a lot going on, our calendars showed meetings, trips, and the start of different projects; but it's one thing to see it on a calendar and another to experience it.

Below we would like to share with you some Praises & Requests. 2021 is off to a wonderful start. Though many things are still up in the air, flexibility is still key, and we still do not have answers to many questions, we can already see God moving in mighty ways.

Be sure to keep scrolling after the PRAYERS section...we have lots of pictures to share!



- Part of our staff was able to get to Coban! The waters have receded enough to where we could get through and take much needed help to many affected. We were able to bless many affected by the hurricanes with clothes, shoes, and hygiene products! These things are in addition to the money that was already sent to the pastor to purchase and distribute food in the first weeks after the floods.



- We were also able to get the first 3 churches set up with their laptops and internet so that they will be able to join the Bible Institute! For the first women's Bible Study we were able to welcome 9 new women! And for the theology classes we had 10 new students!
- We praise God because we were able to once again begin Happy Tummies To Go! As mentioned above, many things are still up in the air and we are trying to make the best and wisest decisions regarding all ministries. We have decided to continue with the To Go function as of now but hope to have more information on moving forward come February.
- We give God all the glory for a new year. Yes, last year was very hard, last year was different, last year was unpredictable. Nevertheless, let us find comfort in the fact that nothing surprises God. He is not surprised by a worldwide pandemic, He is not surprised by political unrest, He is not surprised by war, famishment, infidelity, job loss, mourning, nothing surprises Him. He is Sovereign, all-knowing, all-seeing, all-powerful, and a good, good Father.



“In my distress I called to the Lord; I cried to my God for help. From his temple he heard my voice; my cry came before him, into his ears.”

Psalm 18:6



- We ask that you join us in prayer as we are beginning a new year of construction in Xejuyu. We have many projects happening simultaneously, including, but not limited to, Abuelitos building, multipurpose pavilion, and 6 duplexes. Please pray for God to give us wisdom, as our staff wants to be as involved as possible to make the best decisions on what we hope, is our forever home in San Juan.
- Please pray as we are faced with decisions concerning our ministries and team travels. We want to be at complete peace with decisions made. We pray to not make selfish decisions but decisions that will benefit the local community and those traveling to minister.
- We are still in the need of sponsors for our two new Happy Tum mies. Both are underway, we are working on equipping their kitchens and classrooms so that we may get started in the next few weeks. We are so excited to add 80 new children to our Happy Tum mies ministry. US\$35 per month/per child provides everything for each child.
- We pray for the unrest we are seeing in the U.S. and all over the world. We pray for healing for all those suffering from COVID-19 as well as other illnesses. We pray for those who are mourning. We pray that all of us seek unity under our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.









The last 3 pictures below are of the pastors receiving the computers for the Bible Institute virtual classes. There is much excitement as the students continue their studies.





Impacto Ministry Inc. 9690 Shepherds Creek Place, La Plata, MD 20646

[visit our website](#)



For God so lo**V**ed the world  
that He g**A**ve  
His on**L**y  
begott**E**n  
so **N**  
tha**T** whosoever  
believeth **I**n Him  
should **N**ot perish,  
but have **E**verlasting life.

*John 3:16*



LET ALL  
THAT  
YOU DO  
BE DONE  
WITH  
**LOVE.**

1 CORINTHIANS 16:14 NKJV

[tsflife.com](http://tsflife.com)

